

Toquaht Nation Government (TNG)

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Glossary of Nuu-chah-nulth Terms: Barclay Sound (West) Dialect

This glossary of terms in a non-exhaustive list of Nuu-chah-nulth words used by the TNG. Through our language revitalization efforts, we have committed to using international phonetics when spelling NCC words. We recognize there are different dialects and spellings used by other Nations, and that spelling may change slightly over time as we gain a deeper understanding of spoken sounds. The purpose of this list is to ensure we are consistent throughout the TNG as we work to include more language and cultural practices in all government activities as envisioned in the 2021-24 Strategic Plan.

ťapathsi – advisor to the taayii

čaamaťa - second chief

caacaamaťa – plural chiefs

ciiqaa – chanting, praying by chanting (verb)

ciiqyak – prayer, chant (noun)

ciiqhsii – speaker for the chief

čuu – now, let's go, bye

cuuc - plural čuu, talking to more than person



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hahuuli – the chiefly territories of the chief----there is no plural of this word.

hacaaqis - Stuart Bay

hawiih - plural of hawił

hawił – chief, noble

hakum- woman for high rank (chief's wife, family)

hi**š**ukma c'awaak – everything is one

hisukwin cawaak - we are one with the earth, the air, the sea, etc.

?iisaak – respecting

?iisaakmis – respect (noun)

m'a?aquu?a – Macoah

mamałńi – white person

maatmałńi – plural for white person

mascim – people who make up the community, citizens

m'ukwaqis – pebbly beach (and street name in Macoah for crescent in field)

nuucaanuł – Nuu-chah-nulth

taayii– hereditary chief

taayii hawil – highest ranking chief

tiickin – thunderbird (and name of main street in Macoah)

Åeekoo– thank you (used for ceremonial purposes)

?uušýakšiλe?ic – thank you (everyday use)



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Äicḥuuł - This rock of about 15 m height is a landmark of light colour between Toquaht Bay and Stuart Bay. It used to be the boundary marker between tukwaa?ath and yuulu?il?ath

qwaa?aλin – how we are one

ťiitskiisup – late taayii Bert Mack

ťukwaa?ath – Toquaht people

ťukwaa?athiic hisimyiłyak - Toquaht Gathering Place (name of new community building)

ťukwaa?athiic ňuulsitu?ap – Toquaht's Wastewater Treatment plant

?u?aałuk– look after, care for

wiicackum – Chief Anne Mack's name

witwaak – warriors, responsible for security

yakawa?aḥ - caamata Kevin Mack's name

yuułu?ił?ath – Ucluelet First Nation people

Sapłckwii - smoked dried fish

*This list is managed by the language coordinator. All requests for additions and modifications must flow through the language coordinator.

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